

B-3526 - B-3535

c. 1837-1880's

223 - 201 E. Cross St. (South side)/ 1115 Durst Alley (East side)  
 Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The south side of the 200 block of E. Cross St. is improved with a variety of house types ranging in date from the late 1830's to the 1870's and 1880's. 221-223 E. Cross St. is a pair of two story plus attic brick houses built in the early 1850's. To the west, at 219 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house built in the 1860's; at 217 E. Cross St. there is a three story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice representing a post-Civil War remodeling of an 1855 house; at 215 E. Cross St. there is a late Victorian two story, three bay wide brick house with shed roof and Italianate bracketed cornice representing either an 1880's remodeling or replacement of the original 1850's house on the site; and at 213 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house similar to that at 219 E. Cross St. and also built in the 1860's. Across Durst Alley to the west there is a three story, two bay wide gable-roofed brick house at 211 E. Cross St.; a pair of two story, two bay wide gable-roofed houses at 207-209 E. Cross St. built in the 1850's; a three story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice, now covered with aluminum siding, at 205 E. Cross St., which probably represents an enlargement of an 1840's or 1850's house; and finally a pair of two story, two bay wide late Federal style houses (though currently without dormer windows) built in the late 1830's by the Dempster family at 201-203 E. Cross St. Only one house of an original row of ten two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs built along the east side of Durst Alley in the 1850's survives at 1115 Durst Alley. These houses were probably built by William Webb, the builder of the row of two story plus attic houses on the front portions of the lots at 1110-1124 Battery Ave.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

201-203 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This pair of two story brick gable roofed houses was built in the 1830's or 1840's and formed part of a group of gable roofed houses extending along this side of Cross St. The houses occupy the south-east corner of Cross St. and William St. Both houses have been covered with formstone. 203 Cross St. is a "half house." 201 Cross is a full house but its two story high, four bay deep rear addition (facing on William St.) serves as a separate residence, bearing the street address 1101 William St.

The houses are two stories in height, 17' wide, and occupy lots 60' deep. 201 Cross is two rooms deep and has a two story high, four bay deep rear addition extending back along William St. 203 Cross is a "half house," only one roof deep under the front roof gable. There is a one story high, two bay deep rear addition. The houses are constructed in running bond but the facades have been covered with formstone. The steeply pitched gable roof has a two-tier brick cornice. A paired double rectangular chimney is located on the front gable roof along the partition wall between the two houses. 201 Cross also has a double covered chimney located along the rear roof gable on the east side of the house. There is also a double covered chimney located at the south end of the rear addition.

Although the original treatment of the door and window lintels and sills has been hidden by the formstone covering, it is apparent that the openings all had flat lintels. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash. 201 Cross St. has a horizontally paneled door with upper glass panels set beneath a three-light transom. 203 Cross has a modern flush door set beneath a single light transom filled with a piece of stained glass. The first floor window of 201 Cross has been replaced by a combination of a regular sash and a small upper window. The first floor window on the William St. facade has also been replaced with a wide, single panel of glass. The houses sit on low basements, the entrance to 203 Cross being reached by two brick steps and the entrance to 201 Cross being reached directly from the sidewalk. The entrance to 1101 William St. is reached by four stone steps.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1835-1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Dempster

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Although their original dormer windows are now missing, this pair of houses is representative of a group of two and a half story houses with dormer windows built in the Federal Hill area in the late 1830's and early 1840's to provide inexpensive housing for the growing number of workers moving into the area to work in waterfront-related jobs. The houses are interesting as examples of the quite late use of design characteristics associated with a much earlier period. The houses are Federal in style, the only evidence of their later date being the longer, narrow first floor front windows and interior woodwork details. The floor plan follows the pattern established for earlier working class housing in the area, with small front and back rooms on each floor and with enclosed, tightly winding stairs located between the two rooms. The kitchen was located in a rear addition.

The houses were built by James Dempster, whose family owned most of this side of Cross St. between William and Riverside Aves. in the 1830's and 1840's. Dempster was a fisherman who also operated a grocery store at 201 E. Cross St. in the 1840's and lived at 215 E. Cross St. in the mid-1850's.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore City Land Records, Liber GR 426, Folio 198; Baltimore City Directory, 1835-6, 1837, 1840-41, 1855-56

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 17' x 60' each

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5/79

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

RuxtonMaryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

E. CROSS

B-3534

ST.

WILLIAM

E. WEST

17	17	15	16	10	10	12	21
33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52/53	54	55	56	57	58	59

DURST

ST.

14	14	17	17	12	12	12	16
28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66

BATTERY

AVE.

ST

ST.

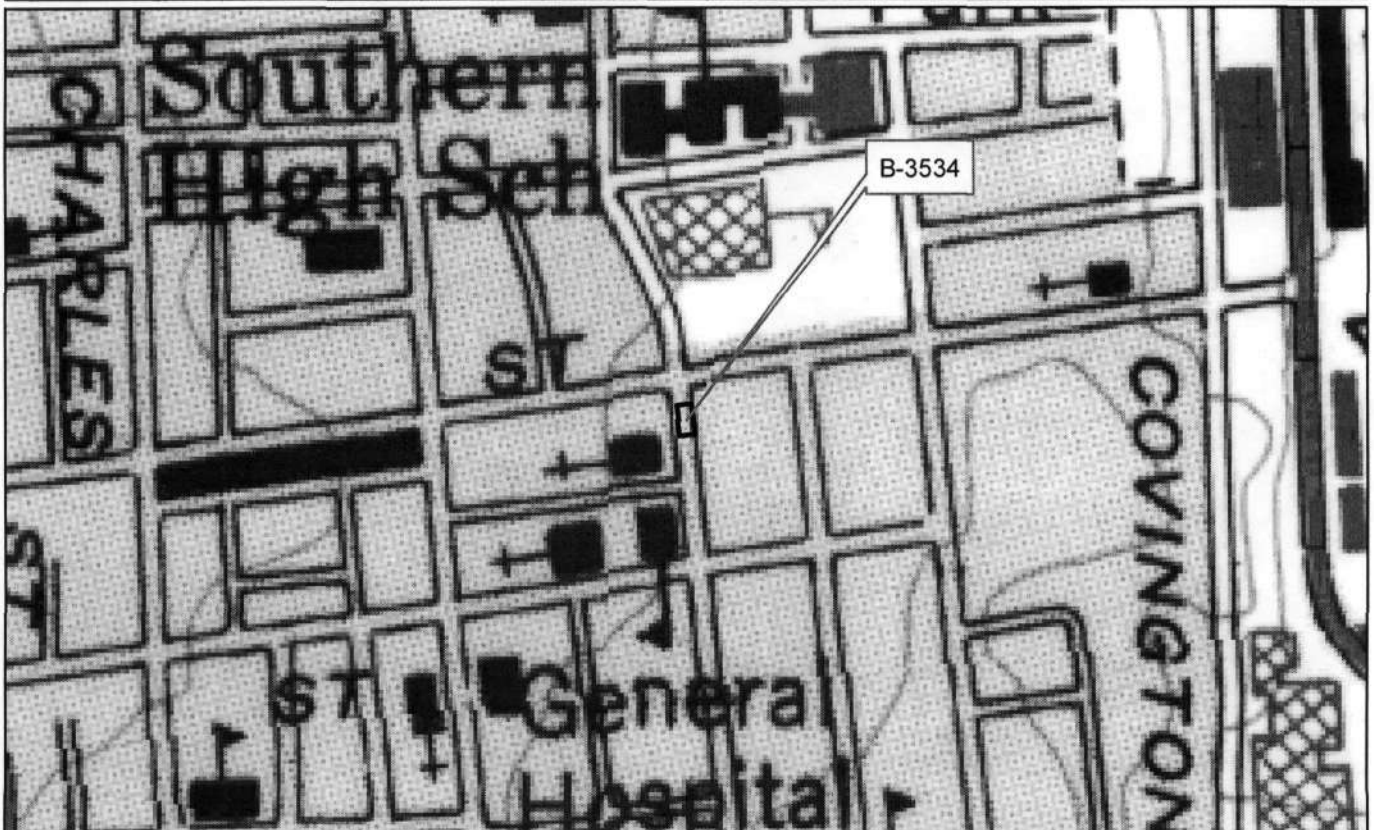
B-3534

NOTICE

DEPART  
RUBEN



B-3534  
201-203 E. Cross Street  
Block 0952 Lots 034-033  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-3534

201-203 E. Cross St.

M.E.H.

5/79

North elevation